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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/622,660

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Takashi Yamaguchi

2018-743

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EXAMINER

CECIL, TERRY K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1723

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/622,660		YAMAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Mr. Terry K. Cecil		1723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11 and 17-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11 and 17-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

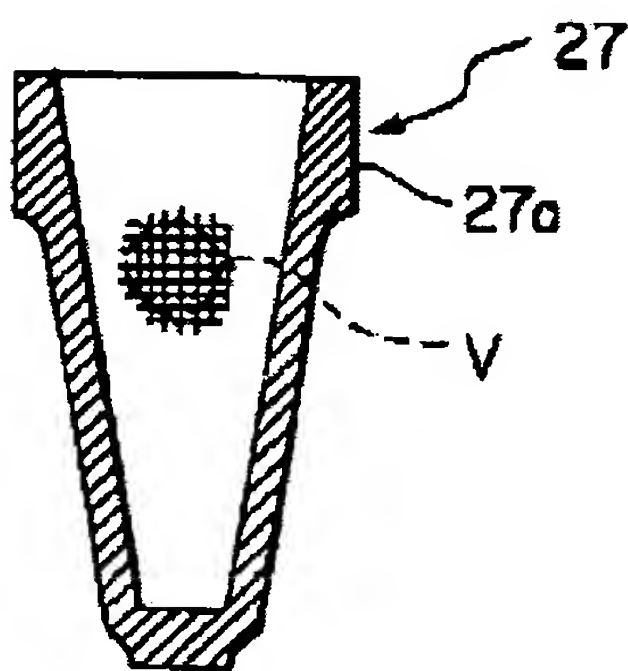
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 10-11, 15-17, 19-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Isozumi et al. (U.S. 6,190,139 B1). Isozumi teaches an injector comprising a



filter with a bore hole of an inlet of fuel injector (figure 1). The filter 27 includes an inlet section 27a (fixed in the peripheral surface of the passageway of the bore hole), a closed end, and a filter section therebetween. Because of the tapering of the filter section a tubular passage exists between the filter section and the inner surface of the bore. Because of the shape of the sides

of the closed end, the cross-sectional area between the outer surface thereof and the inner surface of the bore gradually increases in a downstream direction. As shown in figure 4, the inlet section gradually tapers to the filter section, such that the examiner contends that there certainly exists a cross-sectional area of the tubular passage (adjacent the inlet section) that is equal to or smaller than the total cross-sectional area of the filter openings (27b, shown in figure 5) [as in claims 1,

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10-11, 15-17, 19-20 and 22], wherein the end is considered to be *approximately* conically-shaped, the diameter thereof increasing in a fluid flow direction [as in claim 3].

Since the high pressure pump (and the filter) of is connected to an injector (as taught in col. 3 lines 45-52), the injector can be said to "comprise" the filter and the housing thereof, as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

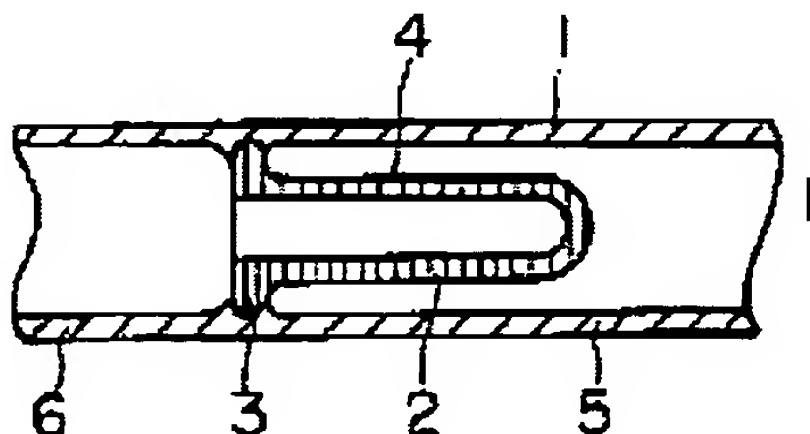
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 2, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isozumi, in view of JP 5-269316, hereinafter '316. '316 teaches a hemispherically-shaped

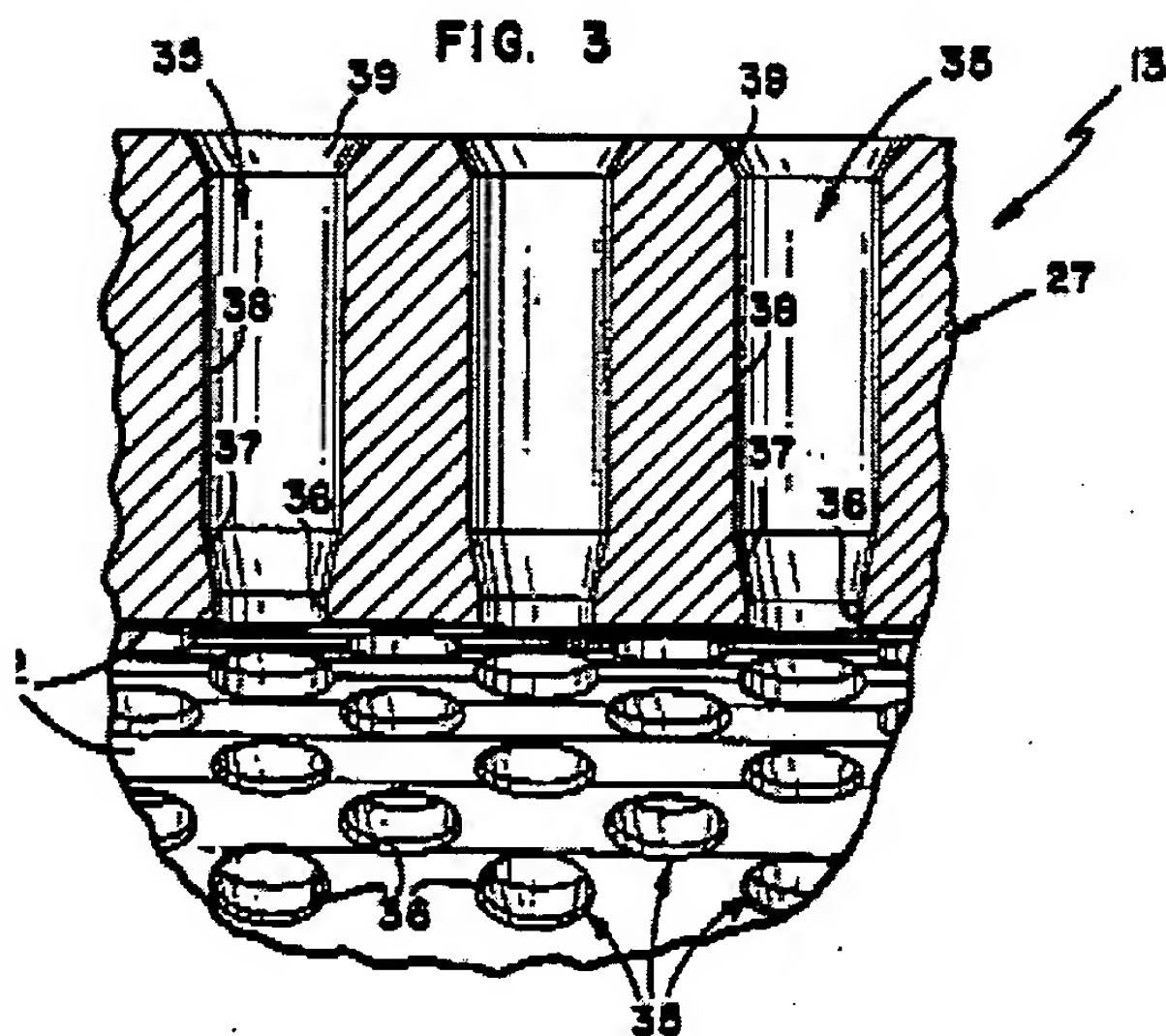


closed end [as in claim 2] and a tubular passageway of substantially constant cross-sectional area [as in claims 18 and 21]. It is considered that it would have been

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obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the filter section of Isozumi to create a tubular passageway of substantially constant cross-section (after the initial taper) and to have the hemispherically-shaped closed end, since '316 teaches the benefit of a simplified construction (abstract) in a filter to be used in the same environment as that of Isozumi and that also seeks to control pore size.

5. Claims 4-8, 13 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isozumi in view of Neuman (U.S. 5,062,952).

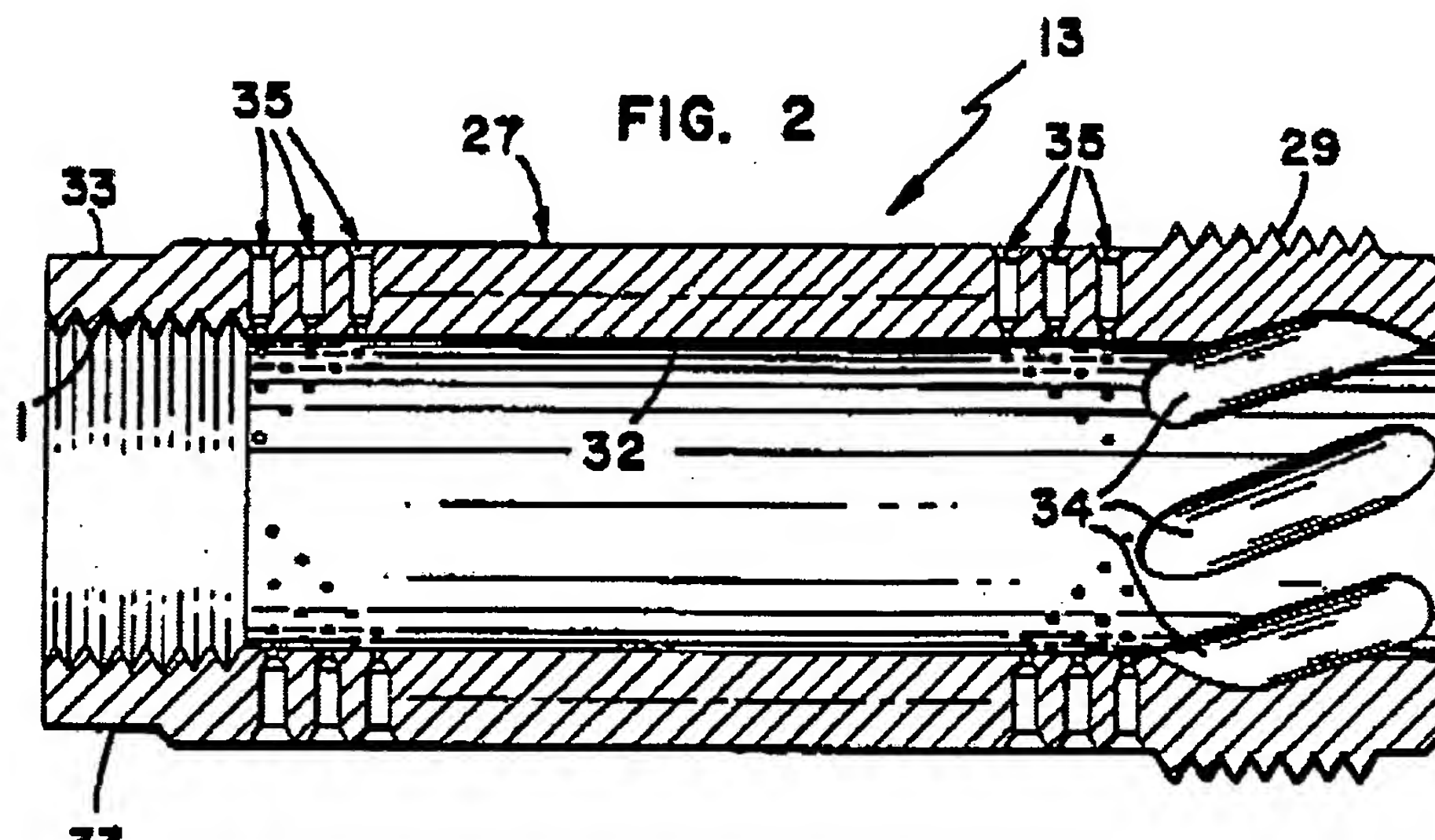


Neuman teaches filter openings having the claimed tapers, steps to a taper (e.g. that from straight bore 36 to tapered bore 37), and different shapes and combinations of shapes [as in claims 4-8]. As explained above, the filter of Isozumi is in an inlet of an injection [as in claim 13]. It is considered that it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in

the art at the time of the invention to have the filter section with filter opening design of Neuman in the invention of Isozumi, since Neuman teaches the benefits of preventing clogging of bores (col. 4, lines 31-37) and using a smaller mass of filter element with the same number of openings without weakening the filter element (col. 4, lines 50-55).

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As for newly added claims 23-25, it is pointed out that the arrangement of the circular holes



of Neuman also includes holes disposed at a substantially regular interval along a substantially helical line.

6. Claims 2, 18, 21, 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isozumi, in view of Stamstad (U.S. 4,882,055). As shown in his drawings, Stamstad teaches a hemispherically-shaped closed end [as in claim 2] and a configuration that would result in a tubular passageway of substantially constant cross-sectional area [as in claims 18 and 21]. He also teaches circular openings [as in claims 23 and 26]. It is considered that it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have the filter of Isozumi to be configured as in Stamstad, since Stamstad teaches the benefit of a filter that is molded shaped and ready for use without the need for further processing and that allows for a filter that is easily cleaned (col. 6).

Response to Arguments

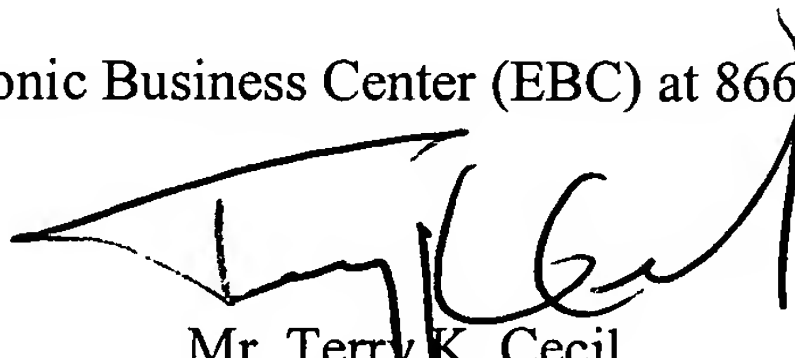
7. Applicant's arguments filed 1-4-2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

- Applicant's arguments concerning that the fluid flow is regulated by the tubular fluid passage is unconvincing since such is considered to be an intended use thereof. In addition it is pointed out that area of the passage of Isozumi inherently allows only up to a maximum volumetric flow therethrough, such that control is effected.
- Since the high pressure pump (and the filter) of is connected to an injector (as taught in col. 3 lines 45-52), the injector can be said to "comprise" the filter and the housing thereof, as claimed.
- In regards to applicant's arguments concerning JP '316, the reference was relied upon for his teachings of a constant cross-section and a rounded end and not for the porous silica structure. Also upon modification, the end would be sealed as taught by Isozumi. In addition, Stamstad (newly applied) teaches the aforementioned limitations.
- In regards to the rejection of Isozumi in view of Neuman, Isozumi would also benefit from his filter being injection molded (as in Neuman) since Neuman teaches having a desired number of openings without weakening the filter element. See also the unitarily injection molded teachings of Stamstad.

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8. Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Steve Griffin, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571)272-1189 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866/217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

TKC
March 8, 2007